

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 7:10p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (7:20P.M.), Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Kelly Porter., Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr. (7:11P.M.), Councilmember Brian Shivers, Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (7:15P.M.)

Staff: Tiara Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer, Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk, Sgt. Leroy Patterson, Johnny Thompson, Public Works Director.

1.1.2A. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Kelly Porter

1.1.3 Approval of Agenda:

Council President Gatling motioned to add section 1.1.2A. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance to the agenda; It was motioned by Councilmember Hardy and seconded by Councilmember Porter to approve the agenda with the addition. The motion carried.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- None

3. LEGISLATION:

- None

4. REPORTS:

4.1 Mayor- Eugene W. Grant

- Mayor Grant reported that you can log into the www.pgplanning.org to complete the survey on how you envision Prince George's County.
- Mayor Grant met with the Department of Agriculture on September 11, 2009, and stated they are the 8th largest bank in the United States providing loans to Homeowners.
- He attended the Check Presentation Ceremony of Kevin Durant at Seat Pleasant Activity Center on September 13, 2009. The contribution afforded the Maryland National Capital Park Planning and the Seat Pleasant Activity Center staff the ability to purchase electronic bleachers, and many upgrades to come. The building is owned by Seat Pleasant, and will provide a return on our investment.
- September 20, 2009 he attended the Emergency Preparedness Workshop, and looking to host one in Seat Pleasant in the near future.
- September 22, 2009 met with Dr. Baig in reference to the Condominium site, which has two letters that is holding up the completion of the project. Each complaint should be handled by the County Council.
- September 26, 2009 attended Gesmane Baptist Church for an Aids seminar. We hold the highest numbers in the area.
- The coalition meeting on Prince George's County provides a lot of information.
- The Governor is proposing to close the State Trooper Barracks in Forestville. He will be submitting a letter from his office and the Council needs to send a letter with all signature opposing.
- State Senate wasn't in support of the Martin Luther King restricting, which caused us to lose 4.2 million for improvements. We have had some fatalities along the Martin Luther King Highway.
- The City has the oldest sewage and infrastructure in the State. Thus, new projects will put a strain on the water pressure, which may cause some pipes to burst and low water pressure.
- October is Domestic Violence Month and many woman and men are being abused, and children being in the environment usually repeat the behavior.
- October 6, 2009 Press Release on Health Care Reform on Capitol Hill. As elected officials we can to members of Congress faster on behalf of our constituents. We have people choosing a roof over their head before health care, which was reported by Kaiser

4.2 Council President- Councilmember Brian Shivers (Former Council President)

- Councilmember Shivers reported that the Council had three meetings in the month of September;

- The Council passed the Ordinance to Establish the Farmers Market, which was vetoed by the Mayor.
- The Council attended the NAACP on September 5, 2009, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
- The Council elected the new Council President at the Public Session on September 14, 2009.

4.3 Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department- Marcus Jones, Vice President

- He reported that October 4-10, 2009 is National Fire Week. They distributed smoke detectors to parents of Seat Pleasant Elementary School, which were donated by Pepco.
- The new engine went into service this month. The Fire Department staffing change in mid August was voted and approved.
- The staffing changes has resulted in the Fire House having four (4) career PGFD personnel assigned to the station Monday-Friday from 7:00-3:00, and weekends there will be two (2) career PGFD personnel assigned. The SPVFC will now provide the primary staffing particularly during the hours when only two (2) career PGFD personnel are assigned.
- He reported that the City call volume hasn't been significant over the past few months. However, the call volume for all SPVFC apparatus has increased due to countywide staffing issues, particularly at Stations 5 (Capitol Heights), Station 17 (Boulevard Heights) and Station 38 (Chapel Oaks).
- July Report -Calls ninety six (96) Engine, two hundred and seventy-two (272) Rescue Squad and five hundred and thirteen (513) Ambulance Total of eight hundred and eighty-one (881) for the month, and Year to Date is four thousand, nine hundred and four (4, 904) of which Seat Pleasant has four hundred and three (403).
- August Report-Calls Seventy-nine (79) Engine, three hundred sixty seven (367) Rescue Squad and four hundred and eleven (411) Ambulance Total 857 for the month, and Year to Date, five thousand, seven hundred and sixty-one (5, 761)
- September Report-Calls Eighty (80) Engine, Two hundred and twelve (212) Rescue Squad and four hundred eighty-three (483) Ambulance Total is Seven hundred, seventy-five (775), and Year to Date six thousand, five hundred and thirty-six (6,536)

- The Volunteer hours year to date is four thousand, six hundred and twenty-eight (4,628)

4.4 City Administrator-Robert Ashton (Acting)

- Mr. Ashton reported that he has been working on modifying the purchasing and procedures and joining forces with the State Department of General Service to make purchases at a lower cost to the City.
- He has ordered the Fleet Replacement Program
- He is presently reviewing a proposal for communication system with Cavalier, Inc.

4.5 Code Enforcement-Tiara Andrews

- She has received several complaints with regards to stored vehicles with out of state tags, high grass and one vacant house. She mailed out violation notices to all of the violators that were generated from the complaints, and is working with the Police Department in regard to the complaint of losing parking privileges due to the out of state vehicles.
- The pond on Yost Place has been cleaned up
- She and Mr. Thompson met with Mrs. Bayer, Manager of Addison Plaza and the meeting went well. They have cut the tree branches to make One Way Sign visible.
- The property located at 5819 Martin Luther King, Jr was sent to the Office of Law on September 22, 2009. She would like to have the property condemned. Councilmember Simms stated the property was condemned and they are waiting to go to court.
- She will be meeting with the County Inspector regarding 6308 Foote Street, which has been a nuisance property for several years.
- 513 70th Place and 419 70th Place have been refurbished and will be on the market soon.
- She's concerned about the car wash on James Farmer Way. Councilmember Shivers suggested a letter to the police officer to look out on week-ends.
- Auto Zone has people working on cars on the side of the building.

4.6 Finance Department-Robert Ashton, City Treasurer

- **Mr. Ashton report was combined with the City Administrator for the Finance Department.**

4.7 Police Department-Sgt. Patterson

- **Personnel-**Sgt. Patterson reported that we have six (6) Officers out of the assigned fifth teen (15). We have one (1) officer out sick and one (1) officer on

light duty. We have one (1) officer in training in Sykesville will be on duty full-time on October 16, 2009.

- **JAG** currently working on concerns in the City, and the problem may be going away soon.
- Surveillance has been increased in Ward II and the person has been sentenced to four (4) years.
- We had two (2) assaults, two (2) breaking and entering and one (1) car theft

4.8 Public Works Department-Johnny Thompson (Director)

- Public Works had planted a flower bed at the corner of Seat Pleasant Drive
- Public Works had re-seeded portions of the sidewalks where the grass was missing from sidewalk replacement.
- The Public Works Department will follow its usual schedule for leave pickup. Citizens can all bag leaves for pick up by Bates Trucking, which picks up yard waste on Wednesday until January
- The Sweeper is now in working order-Councilman Yeargin stated that neighbors are complaining about the noise from the street sweeper early in the morning.
- The County's Community Service Department has been a tremendous asset in the City wide cleanup efforts. Their continuous support has enabled the Public Works Department to cut grass, and help with blight removal around abandoned houses without the need to hire private contractors. This has contributed to a tremendous cost savings for the City.
- We have been in contact with Harvey's Salt Company concerning salt and deicing needs for the City. We are also looking into purchasing a new salt spreader to assist with the snow removal.

5. CITIZEN COMMENT:

Amanda Feggans, 69th Place, Seat Pleasant-Mrs. Feggans stated congratulations on the marquee out front of City Hall. She knows the former City Administrator (Yates) had worked on getting the sign. She wanted to say thanks for the speed humps and flower bed. Congratulations to New Council President, and she hopes that one of the goals in 2010 is to complete the Feggans Center. She feels the Council doesn't make concrete decisions, as the City doesn't have a City Administrator, Chief of Police or Economic Development Director. The Feggans Center has been closed for almost one year. She was looking forward to the Farmer's Market and the citizens will not have one, due to Ward I being concerned about trash. She's concerned about vacant properties in the City. She would like to

know if Mr. Ashton signs the purchase orders and certify the funds. Councilmember Gatling informed Mrs. Feggans that the Feggans Center blue prints are missing and the Council has spent the last year correcting the mistakes from the past. We are currently working on getting the blue prints developed so, we can work on the Feggans Center. Mr. Ashton stated that the Mayor signs the purchase orders.

Jacqui Battle-70th Street, Seat Pleasant-Ms. Battle stated congratulations to Council President Gatling. She is concerned about the mechanic shop behind the Murry's. She has a concerned about the shoes hanging on the pole/lines. Councilwoman Simms has contacted Pepco, and they had not removed them as of yet. She wanted to know about the shuttle bus service during the public session. The Council informed her that the County governs the contract on the bus and it doesn't allow us to operate the bus after 3:00p.m. Councilman Porter had recommended Metro Access. She wanted to know if the City could control who moved into the city.

Elsie Marshall-68th Place, Seat Pleasant-Ms. Marshall wanted to congratulate Council President Gatling on her appointment. She wrote that Mayor Grant answered her question in his report.

James Wright-70th Street, Seat Pleasant-Mr. Wright announced the Seat Pleasant Citizen Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 from 7:00-8:30p.m., at the Activity Center. The Prince Georges Public Forum will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden from 7:00-9:00p.m., at 3600 Brightseat Road, Landover, Maryland.

Angela Scott-Birchleaf Avenue, Seat Pleasant-Ms. Scott state that she attended the Emergency Preparedness Workshop and they informed you on what to have in cases of an emergency. There will be a High School Retreat Seminar on November 13-14, 2009 to prepare students for scholarship for \$50.00. She wanted to note a correction on the SPVFD that she had someone bring the fire alarms to the meeting on October 22, 2009. They wanted to come up with ways to distribute the remaining fire alarms. They distributed lights that work in power outage. She would like to see someone work on the disaster or 202 Coalition. It is useful if the citizens attend and bring the information back.

Koko Barnes-Seat Pleasant Community Development Corporation-Ms. Barnes wanted to announce the Community Meeting that will be at the City Hall on

Saturday, October 31, 2009 from 10:00am-12:00pm. They have been awarded monies for the Energy Conservation Program. She stated the Council to provide at least two (2) persons per ward. They can conduct an energy audit throughout the city, but Ward I has been selected. Audits are free to \$50.00 per household depending on income. They are providing training on jobs to conduct the energy audits.

Reverend Oscar Broadie-Carmody Hills Baptist Church-Reverend Broadie stated that he wanted to build a partnership with the community. He reached out to the Office of the Mayor and didn't get a response. His church is located off of Seat Pleasant Drive and he is concerned about the speeding that occurs.

Eugene F. Kennedy (Former Mayor)-Addison Road, Seat Pleasant-Mr. Kennedy reported that the light on Central Avenue and Addison Road will be repaired.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

- None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1. MML Fall Conference, Thursday, 10/22-10/24/2009, Flintstone, MD

ADJOURN-It was motioned by Councilwoman Simms and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dashaun Lanham
City Clerk